

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7651

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS NASSAU 2133

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: BAHAMAS TO JOIN CARICOM

1. ACCORDING TO PRIME MINISTER PINDLING, SPEAKING ON MONTHLY "CONTACT" PROGRAM DECEMBER 15, THE BAHAMAS WILL JOIN CARICOM IN EARLY 1976, FOLLOWING RATIFICATION BY OTHER MEMBERS OF AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 5 OF TREATY OF CHAUGARAMAS WHICH WILL ALLOW A STATE TO BECOME MEMBER OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY WITHOUT JOINING CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET. HE CLAIMED THAT BARBADOS, TRINIDAD AND ANTIGUA HAVE ALREADY RATIFIED THE BAHAMAS-PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND REST ARE EXPECTED TO DO SO BY END OF JANUARY.

2. DISMISSING OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT DESIRE FOR SOCIALISM MOTIVATES GCOB MOVEMENT TOWARD CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS, PINDLING SAID, " NO COUNTRY CAN AFFORD TO PURSUE AN ISOLATIONIST POLICY AND... IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO IGNORE" NEIGHBORS TO SOUTH WITH WHOM " WE HAVE STRONG HISTORICAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ETHNIC TIES." AT SAME TIME, HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT BAHAMAS REMAINS DISINTERESTED IN CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES SUCH AS THOSE IMPLIED IN CARIBBEAN COMMON MARKET MEMBERSHIP.
WEISS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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